



Tapping Talents of the 55+ Population

Michigan's Senior Corps

What is Senior Corps?

Senior Corps connects Americans over the age of 55 with the people and organizations that need them most by helping them become mentors, coaches, or companions to people in need, or contribute their job skills and expertise to community projects and organizations. Senior Corps offers several ways to get involved, which are listed below. Volunteers receive guidance and training so they can make a contribution that suits their talents, interests, and availability.

- The Foster Grandparent Program connects volunteers with children and young people with exceptional needs. Volunteers mentor, support, and help some of the most vulnerable children in their communities.
- RSVP connects volunteers with service opportunities in their communities that match their skills and availability. From building houses to immunizing children, from enhancing the capacity of nonprofit organizations to improving and protecting the environment, RSVP volunteers put their unique talents to work to make a difference.
- The Senior Companion Program brings volunteers together with adults in their communities who have difficulty with day-to-day living tasks. Volunteers can be found assisting with grocery shopping and other errands, offering transportation to the doctor, sharing a meal, or engaging in socialization.

Senior Corps is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service – Michigan State Office and Michigan's Office of Services to the Aging.

11,225 Michigan's Senior Corps participants will serve with 56 projects in 2011.

- **1,670** of those volunteers serve in the Foster Grandparent Program through **19 projects**.
- **9,041** of those volunteers serve in the RSVP Program through **23 projects**.
- **514** of those volunteers serve in the Senior Companion Program through **14 projects**.

"Foster Grandparents provide important assistance and a special relationship for our students and staff. The volunteers demonstrate the vital assistance seniors from our community provide."

Ed Haynor
President,
Newaygo Board of
Education

Financial Impact

\$6,727,970 in Federal Funds has been allotted to the Corporation for National and Community Service - Michigan State Office for 2010-2011 Senior Corps programs.

\$4,853,200 in State Funds has been allotted through Michigan's Office of Services to the Aging for 2010-2011 Senior Corps programs.

More than **\$1.45 million** was leveraged by Senior Corps programs in Michigan's communities in 2010.



Foster Grandparent Impact

During the 2010-2011 program year, Foster Grandparent volunteers will provide support to young children struggling with social, emotional, or academic challenges.

Foster Grandparent programs provide services in **72 Michigan counties**, with nearly **2 million hours** of assistance provided to **6,100 children**.

RSVP Impact

As part of the 2010-2011 program year, RSVP will serve as a safety net for many communities—conducting safety patrols, protecting the environment, tutoring and mentoring youth, and responding to natural disasters. More than **1,700 groups** across Michigan benefit from their services.

This year, RSVP will help nonprofit organizations enhance and expand the services they provide in **66 Michigan counties**, with nearly **4.5 million hours** of service logged.

Senior Companion Impact

In Michigan, Senior Companions provided one-on-one support individualized services to help homebound seniors and other adults maintain independence in their own homes.

Senior Companion programs in **58 Michigan counties** will provide more than **58,000 hours** of assistance to **2,600 adults** this year.

The Impact of Senior Volunteers

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, volunteer service provided by older volunteers serving in Offices of Services to the Aging-administered programs equates to an economic value of nearly **\$56 million** annually.

The return on the more than \$4.8 million investment the State of Michigan places on Senior Corps volunteers is more than **500%**.

Seniors who volunteer have a lower risk for physical ill health. Their service can help improve self-esteem, reduce heart rates and blood pressure, increase endorphin production, enhance immune systems, buffer the impact of stress, and combat social isolation.

"It's so rewarding helping the kids and watching them improve and grow with confidence. You have to know when to back off, too. [But] I love it here, and the teachers are super, good people."

Larry Miller
Michigan Foster
Grandparent

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